(b) to (d) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. Powers to plan, sanction, implement and execute individual rural drinking water supply schemes vest with State Governments. The details of rural drinking water supply schemes implemented in the States and the details of habitations covered with these schemes are not maintained at the Government of India level. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of States in providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations by rendering financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). National Agenda for Governance envisage drinking water facilities to all rural habitations (including rural habitations of Himachal Pradesh) by 2004. States have been advised to chalk out Action Plan in this regard. Targets of 2003-2004 have been so fixed so as to cover all left out habitations during this year. Coverage Status is being regularly monitored.

Drop in poverty ratio

898. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poverty ratio in rural areas has dropped to nearly half between 1983 and 1999-2000; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the proportion of the rural population living below poverty line estimated at 45.65 per cent has come down to 27.1 per cent in the terminal year of last century?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the estimates of the Planning Commission, the proportion of rural population living below the poverty line in rural areas was 45.6% in 1983 which has come down to 27.1% in 1999-2000.

Irregularities pointed out by CAG in SGSY

899. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General report has detected irregularities in the implementation of the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, between 1999-2002;